Empanelment for the post of joint Secretary

1294. DR. MOHD. HASIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for empanelment of names of the officers of Government of India for the post of Joint Secretary from amongst those whose batch-mates have been promoted to the grade of senior administrative grade and whose names are down in the seniority list; and

(b) the number of such officers included in the panel for the post of Joint Secretary and the number of those appointed as Joint Secretary during the last two years with their seniority position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A minimum length of 17 years of service is necessary for consideration for empanelment as Joint Secretary in respect of officers belonging to All India/ Central Organised Group 'A' Services. However, pay scales are also taken into account for determining the eligibility of Group 'A' Central Services officers, with the object of keeping the size of the panels within a reasonable limit.

The officers who fulfil the above eligibility criteria are approved for empanelment by the Government on the recommendations of the Senior Selection Board (now Civil Services Board).

(b) During the last 2 years a total of 358 officers were empanelled for holding Joint Secretary or equivalent posts, out of which 145 officers were appointed to such posts at the Centre. Appointments to these posts are made keeping in view the qualifications/ experience etc. required for the job and the availability of eligible officers in the field of choice. Suitability for a particular assignment rather than seniority is the determining factor in making such appointments.

Raid by CBI on the house of assistan manager Bokaro Steel Limited

1295. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER b pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of In vestigation raided the House of A sistant General Manager, Boka Steel Limited, Bhawnathpur Min on the 29th March, 1987 and recov red unaccounted money and oth articles;

(b) if so, details of the unaccoun ed money and articles seized; an

(c) whether any action has be taken against the officer and if the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNE PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PE SIONS AND THE MINISTER HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHI AMBARAM): (a) and (b) In pu suance of a case registered by C.I against an Assistant General Ma ger, Bokaro Steel Ltd., Bhawna pur Mines, the residential and of premises of the public servant wh searched by CBI on 26-3-87. approximate value of cash and ot movable and immovable assets

covered during the searches is as follows:—

Cash	Rs. 14,000/-
LIC Policies . . .	Rs. 1 lakh
N.S.C.	Rs. 39,000/-
Movable assests .	Rs. 79,000/-
Immovable assests . .	Rs. 6,35,000/-

In addition some incriminating documents have also been seized.

(c) No action has been taken yet since the investigation is not over.

Hardship faced by imported due to hike in customs duty

1296. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while making changes in the import policy or in the import and export duties enough time is permitted to mitigate the hardship that might arise to the importers/exporters in respect of the items which are under way;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently while increasing project import duty from 55 per cent to 85 per cent no such time was allowed, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received complaints from importers against increase in the rate of customs duty on project imports from 55 per cent to 85 per cent especially with respect to capital goods for which licences have already been issued and open irrevocable letter of credit given before the announcement of budget or where the goods were intransit; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to mitigate the hardship of the concerned importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Changes in import duty take immediate effect and there is no provision for continuing to charge the earlier rate of import duty on the goods which are on the way. So far as the project rate of duty which changed on 1-3-87 is concerned, a number of representations were received and in order to mitigate the financial hardship of the importers, the IDBI and other financial institutions have already announced the facility of making available to these importers additional finance expeditiously for paying the customs duty at the enhanced rate on project import goods where such goods are in the pipeline.

Modernisation of Army

1297. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what measures are being undertaken for modernisation of the Army, particularly to bring about qualitative improvement in combat readiness; and

(b) what is the extent to which computerisation, particularly computer-aided designing, has been introduced and what are the plans for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) By means of an on-going process of modernisation, it is ensured that the Army is always in a maximum state of combat readiness. Some of the important thrust areas in this process of modernisation include: